

could not have been possible without the dedication and contributions of the Project RACE organization.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARRET GRAVES

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2021

Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Madam Speaker. I apologize for missing votes on June 25. I was meeting with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in Louisiana to discuss issues impacting veterans in my district. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 185.

IN HONOR OF DAVID BLUFORD

HON. GREGORY W. MEEKS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2021

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my late constituent, friend, and mentor, David Bluford. David lived a life dedicated to the pursuit of knowledge, and to the betterment of the people around him. He was a husband, father, writer, educator, scholar, and a leader to his community.

While so many people might spend their lives and careers scrambling for wealth or power, David was the embodiment of a public servant. In his decades as an educator, he served as a college professor, high school principal, junior high school teacher and the director of the Upward Bound program at Queens College. David's colleagues remember how fervently he advocated for the students. His students remember him for the way he guided them towards wisdom, and towards greater versions of themselves.

As a young man and throughout his life, David sought out opportunities to develop himself in all aspects. He was inducted into the Fayetteville State University Basketball Hall of Fame and served in the Korean War. He studied Education and Political Philosophy at five different colleges including Walden College and Columbia University, ultimately earning his PhD.

David was also a talented writer. He wrote for papers including the New York Voice, New York Daily News, and the National Association of Secondary Principals, where he wrote a guide for new principals preparing to work in underserved communities, as he did during his career. Though he was an excellent leader, David didn't treat education like a strict hierarchy, rather an exchange. He never stopped learning, and he inspired other educators around him to continue to learn, too. He treated his students with dignity.

One of David's favorite quotes, said by Confucius, was "Choose the job you love, and you will never work a day in your life." What David loved was service. He didn't just have a community-oriented career, but a community-oriented lifestyle. He was Chairman of the Alpha Phi Alpha Senior Citizens Center in Queens, and a recipient of countless awards—including New York City School District 29's Distinguished Service Award, the Outstanding Edu-

cator Award from the NAACP's board in Jamaica, New York, the Jackie Robinson Junior High School Man of the Year Award. He participated in several service-oriented organizations including the Urban League, the Lebanon Lodge of Jamaica, and 32 Degree Shriner.

David's wife of 62 years, Renee, their children, and their grandchildren all remember his devotion to his family, his warm heart, and his graceful nature towards humanity. As a husband, a father, and a grandfather, he leaves an everlasting mark on those who were so blessed to know him.

In all aspects of his life, David Bluford was authentic. When the opportunity presented itself to help someone else, to share knowledge, or to be a resource, he seized that opportunity. Few fields let us serve our communities as directly as education does. David taught more than just English or Philosophy—he taught character. In being such a brilliant example to his students and fellow community members, David inspired change in countless lives.

When he as just 17 years old, David converted to Catholicism and so began a new relationship with his faith. Through his life and works, David shared his faith in God with his family and friends. We know that David's faith guided more than just his thoughts or words but his actions too. Few verses capture that like Isaiah 58:10—"If you pour yourself out for the hungry and satisfy the desire of the afflicted, then shall your light rise in the darkness and your gloom be as the noonday." David's life work is the embodiment of this scripture. His life philosophy was one of cognitive, academic, emotional, and spiritual development. Not just for himself or for his students, but for every person in his life. All of us, as public servants ourselves, can learn from his example.

HONORING THOMAS B. DAY

HON. DARRELL ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2021

Mr. ISSA. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize and celebrate the life and accomplishments of Thomas B. Day, who passed away on June 15, 2021.

Day dedicated over 30 years of his abundant life to higher education and paved the way for thousands of students to achieve their academic and professional goals. Among Day's numerous accomplishments in academia, public service, and science include appointments to the National Science Board by Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush and receipt of the Senior Fellow and Fellow titles, respectively, from the California Council on Science and Technology and the American Physical Society. Serving as President of San Diego State University (SDSU) from 1978-1996, Day oversaw the creation of six doctoral programs and a strategic shift that emphasized faculty-intensive research.

Referred to as one of the most transformative presidents in the history of SDSU, under his guidance, the SDSU campus significantly expanded, as he created a path for what is now California State University San Marcos, the SDSU School of Public Health,

and the SDSU School of Communication. A credit to Day's vision, SDSU School of Public Health now produces 75 percent of the public health work force in San Diego.

Day's legacy continues to be recognized. In 2018, SDSU named the school's engineering and interdisciplinary sciences complex the "Thomas B. and Anne K. Day Quad" in his honor.

Additionally, SDSU's freshman success programs are now called the "Thomas B. Day Student Success Programs" to reflect Day's advocacy for ensuring that students had access to services that could support and enrich their learning opportunities.

These accolades reflect Day's strong dedication to SDSU and his deep hope for the continuous betterment of our community.

While we mourn the loss of an extraordinary leader in our community, we can find joy in the fact that Day's legacy will continue to enrich the lives of generations of Californians to come.

CELEBRATING THE 22ND ANNIVERSARY OF CHRISTIAN COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 28, 2021

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Christian Community Baptist Church in Fresno, California on the occasion of its 22nd anniversary. The church is a valuable part of the community and plays an important role in the spiritual lives of citizens in the Central Valley.

In February 1996, approximately 15 people left the Providence Missionary Baptist Church under the leadership of Deacon Elvey Perkins. During this time, the group held meetings and worship services at Denny's Restaurant on Abby Avenue to begin planning their future. In March 1996, this group began meeting at the Model Cities Building in Fraternal Hall. During this time the lay leaders of the group invited several ministers to preach God's Word. These consisted of four ordained Deacons, two Deacons on trial, and several Trustees. One of the local ministers invited to preach God's word was Dr. Jerome E. Jackson, Interim Pastor of the St. Rest Missionary Baptist Church of Fresno. After several business meetings, the group decided to form a congregation and to name it "Christian Community Church". In April 1997, the church membership called Reverend Dr. Jackson to become the Pastor. Dr. Jackson accepted the pastorate and the first church service was held on April 20, 1997. Since then the Christian Community Baptist Church has built a model for the community of faith extending God's Kingdom spiritually, educationally, economically, evangelistically, and geographically.

Under the leadership of Dr. Jackson, the newly formed Christian Community Baptist Church of Fresno, California filed for incorporation as a non-profit tax-exempt religious organization and received approval on June 1, 1998. In 1999, the newly incorporated Church moved from the Model Cities Building in Fraternal Hall to the New Millennium Charter School building. Almost immediately after being organized, the church connected itself